

## Report to the Community Hospital Task Force

Meeting with Hospital CEOs  
February 29, 2008

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts gave opening remarks to begin the meeting. She asked the group to report what other activities had been ongoing outside of the forum of the Task Force.

Community Hospital Task Force co-chairs Christopher Koller and Gary Alexander were also in attendance. Mr. Koller specifically asked for the group's opinion on the appropriate role of government on issues facing hospitals in Rhode Island.

The co-chairs distributed two documents prepared by the Hospital Association of RI:

a) Comments delivered to CHTF on Jan. 22 and b) Letter to co-chairs dated Feb. 28

Hospital CEOs voiced the following concerns:

*Survival of some community hospitals is questionable.*

- Before we can design a reimbursement system to get the outcome we want, we need to make sure that community hospitals can survive in the short-term – their situation needs to be stabilized.

*Adverse conditions for physicians in Rhode Island hurt hospitals' financial conditions.*

- Increasing physician reimbursement would help recruit physicians to Rhode Island and to work in hospitals in RI.
- Physician malpractice rates are also a concern.

*There is some opportunity for consolidation of services, but legal barriers remain.*

- Hospitals could create purchasing cooperatives to meet certain needs.
- The Hospital Conversions Act and anti-trust laws prevent greater flexibility and planning on the part of the hospital community as to how to most efficiently delivery services on a system-wide basis.

*Community should examine insurer costs with same scrutiny as hospital costs*

- Medical-loss ratios viewed as too low.

*State government should consider undertaking other issues to help hospitals*

- Health planning.
- Transparency of hospital pricing.

Attendees:

Connie Howes, Women and Infants'	Gary Gaube, Landmark Medical Center
Kathleen Hittner, The Miriam Hospital	Richard Charest, LMC and Rehab Hosp.
John Fogarty, St. Joseph's	Bonnie Baker, Butler Hospital
Louis Giancola, South County Hospital	Michael Ryan, Memorial Hospital of RI
Mark Crevier, Kent Hospital	Ed Quinlan, Hospital Association of RI
Charles Kinney, Westerly Hospital	
Staff: Dan Meuse, Jennifer Wood (Office of LG) Craig Syata, HARI	Staff: Ralph Racca, DHS Stephanie Kissam, DOH